

WASHRATM

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VOLUME 21 ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 2019

Wireless Association of South Hills



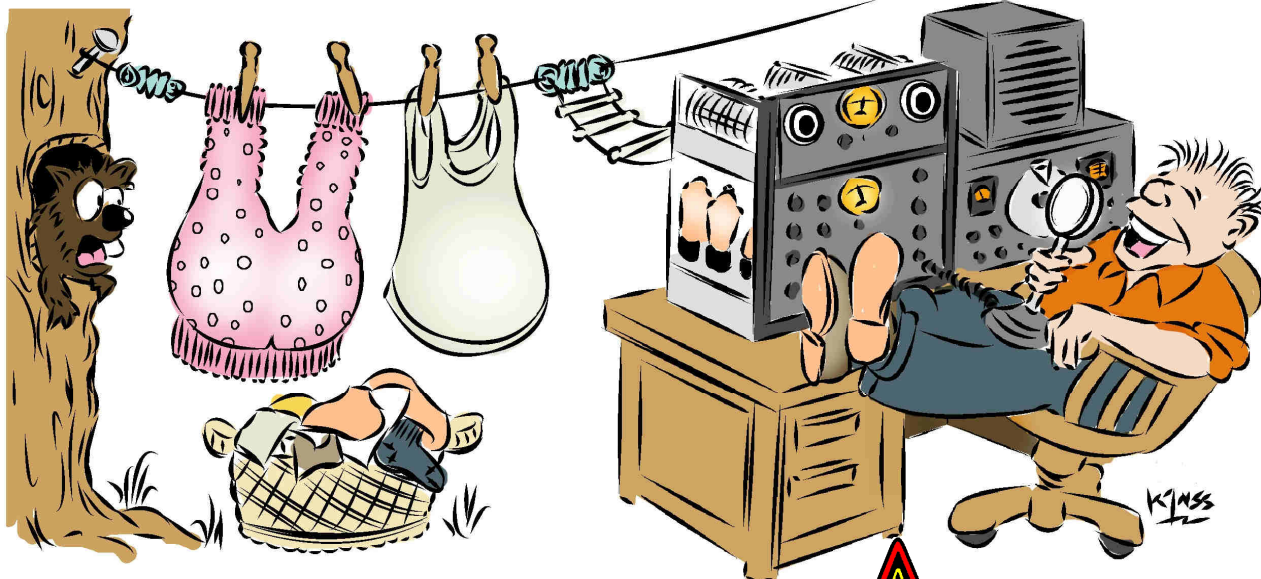
*Well, What Else Would You Expect To Find Under A
Ham's Christmast Tree?*

N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 21 Issue 12

DECEMBER 2019

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, December 5th, 2019

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, December 5th 2019**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Tony KB3BYA will discuss DMR & Digital Hot Spots. Other subjects for the meeting include upcoming plans for 2020, and **WASHFest 2020**.

See you there!



Cover Photo: Don't you wish your Christmas Tree looked that good? (The presents under it, I mean!)

Cover Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASH 2020 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2020 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2019 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every **Monday** Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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Ron Notarius W3WN
3395 Rosewood Drive, Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546
e-mail: newsletter@n3sh.org or w3wn@arrl.net

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 23rd

The Next WASH VE exam session will be on **Sunday, February 23rd**, 2020, 10:00 AM, at **WASHFest 2020**, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz repeater. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Pre-registration is required due to space limitations.

If you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron Notarius W3WN:

Telephone (412) 572-6723 or E-Mail: w3wn at n3sh dot org

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of **\$15.00** (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Future test dates: To Be Determined

Tony's Musings

I was able to watch the Holiday parade while getting ready for a Show later that day. Awesome work to all who helped Jim WB4GCS coordinate the floats and such!! What a great way to start the Holiday season! Don't forget..

The 20th Annual Two Meter Contest is coming up on January 11th!

And..

There are only 2 more club meetings before the WASHFest and we are still looking for Chair-persons for various positions. Don't forget the main prize will be a Flex-6400M so spread the word - Need to sell them tickets!!

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a safe and Happy New Year!

— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH



The Polish Amateur Radio Union PZK will celebrate it's 90th anniversary in 2020.

To celebrate, the SP Old Timers Club has announced a "competition for memories of amateur radio."

More information on this unique event is available at <https://tinyurl.com/PolandPZK>.

Saturday, November 30th, as most of us were still recovering from turkey overdoses & dented wallets, most of the **WASH Breakfast Gang** was downtown preparing for and participating in the annual WPXI Holiday Parade... you'll see a write-up & pictures in the next few pages. But of few of us, who could not make the parade due to scheduling issues, met as usual at Eat 'N Park, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray. This time around, the only stalwarts were KB3BYA & Amy, and W3WN. Topics included job changes, how to mis-handle luggage, seeing Lez Miz, memories of Snowmageddon, email and telephone scams (and how to counter them), and more. Our next gathering of the Gang will be the last one for the year, Saturday, December 28th, returning to the **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray, officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, please let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

A timely reminder... if you notice **interference on the 146.955 repeater**, please make sure you log the date & time and a summary of what you may have heard, and let Tony KB3BYA know. As many of you know, there have been reports of encroachment from users of a repeater on the same frequency in an adjacent state. If it reaches the point where something will need to be said, we (ie Tony, as Club Prez) needs to have something more than "we think we heard something." Certainly no reason why we can't all co-exist, but if a problem crops up, the sooner we can address it and resolve it, the better.

Thank you: Ye Editor wishes to thank everyone's kind words and thoughts regarding The Boss's accident. While she has a ways to go, she is recovering, and should be back on her feet soon enough!

A quick reminder that Ron W3WN has regrettably announced that due to work and time commitments, he will **not be able to continue as the VEC Liason**, and so, we need a club member to step up and take over the task. Most of the task involves scheduling the VE Exams, handling the pre-registrations, lining up the VE's, and getting the paperwork in to the ARRL VEC. Please see Ron W3WN or Tony KB3BYA if you can help out.

Can you believe that in only a little over a month (from when this is being written), once again our annual **WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest** will again be upon us? It's even harder to believe that this year will be the 20th Anniversary of our fun little contest! It's fun, it's short (only a few hours on a Saturday night) and it's open to everyone... and you don't need more than an HT to participate! Take a look at the rules on Page 7, and make plans to join us for a fun little evening! And don't forget... work just a few stations, send in a log, and you get a free main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2020**! What's to lose?

Speaking of **WASHFest 2020**, it too will be here before you know it! We only have three more club meetings before our club's biggest event of the year! Carol KB3GMN has the bulk of the prizes, table sales are starting to pick up... things are starting to come together as always. Carol, as always, will need volunteers to help out with all sorts of chores. And we're asking for help in "pre-hamfest" sales of the main prize tickets. If you can lend a hand in any way, give Carol a buzz and see what you can do!

Don't forget about next years **KDKA Centennial Special Event Station(s)**, scheduled to take place at the end of October and beginning of November 2020. It will be here before you know it! The 1x1 calls have been reserved, and plans are still being worked on. Anyone interested in helping out on the event, be it a planner or an operator, should contact "Radio Free" Bob WC3O ... or better yet, join the Groups.io discussion group he's setup for just that purpose. The event WILL be open to all SWPA amateur radio operators who want to participate, regardless of which club (if any) they belong to.

Plans are also in the works for activating Dr. Frank Conrad's old call (which later became the 'experimental' Westinghouse call for the KDKA Shortwave transmitters) **8XK** and later **W8XK**, throughout the course of 2020, even if it won't be part of the "official" celebration outside of the Special Event dates. These activations, when they happen, will also be open to all SWPA operators. More on that in the coming months.



He knows when you are sleeping,
he knows when you're awake...
He knows when you are QRV, so
be good for goodness' sake!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 17

Minutes, November 7th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, **WASH**

Call to Order: 19:01 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence: Silent Keys & Others

Number of Members Present: 16; Numbers of Guests: 0;

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV)

- ♦ Motion to Accept: Tim (N8NEU); Seconded by: Glen (KD7FD). Accepted: Yes.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU):

- ♦ Are there any corrections to the Minutes: No.
- ♦ Motion to Accept By: Chuck (KC3ELA); Seconded by: Harold (K3HCR) Passed: Yes

Repeaters: Frank (N3FB), Jim (WB4GCS):

- ♦ Working
- ♦ Frank repaired the amplifier

WASHNet

- ♦ Charles (Chuck) Bihun, III (K3CELA): Monday net: High participation rate. Afternoon driver enjoyable with younger voices participating
- ♦ Glen (KE7FD): Tuesday Net: Participation low but OK

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX): No report

Public Service: Mike (WA3PYU)

- ♦ Jim (WB4GCS): Thanksgiving Day Parade (November 30, 2019); met with parade organizers, a lot of fun and enjoyed being in the company for excited people, need Ham operators to man parade assembly points, principal task = communications between parade marshals and VIP gallery desk; 11 operators needed; likely to use 442.55 freq.; suggest volunteer operators get longer antennas & extra battery for handhelds; time commitment = 6 hours; See reflector for additional information
- ♦ National Weather Service to conduct demonstration; may include balloon launch, weather permitting.

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): published.

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Next Exam scheduled for WASHFest 2020 on February 23rd. Pre-registration will be required due to space limitations.

Ways & Means/Membership Contributions: Carol Danko (KB3GMN):

- ♦ WASHFest (Feb 23rd, 2020) pre-sale tickets going reasonably well
- ♦ Will need help selling more
- ♦ All prizes are in hand
- ♦ Minor items still pending until January 2020

President's Report: I will be working in the kitchen during the Hamfest; will need volunteers.

Old Business:

- ♦ Glen (KE7FD): is in communications with Steel Valley V0-Tech regarding donated ham equipment.
- ♦ A request for volunteers will be made at the January 2nd, 2020 membership meeting.

2020 Officer Elections: Nominations were reopened for President and Treasurer. With no additional nominations, nominations were closed with one candidate per position. Secretary Dan (K3CMU) recorded that Tony Romano (KB3BYA) and Mark Stabryla (N3RDV) were reelected by acclamation.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

- ♦ Julie Notarius [wife of Ron Notarius (W3WN)] was injured in automobile accident; should recover well.
- ♦ Tony (KB3BYA) will discuss DMR / Digital Hot Spots at December 5th member meeting
- ♦ ARES Christmas party to be held on December 7th, 2019, contact Bob at NE3Q@verizon.net.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Harold (K3HCR), Seconded: Carol (KB3GMN)

Meeting Adjourned: 20:05 hours



WASH Spotlight: OVCB



From the 2019 WPXI Holiday Parade, the Percussion section of the Ohio Valley Community Band:

Mike DeSanto, Frank Bobro N3FB, Chris Miller, Frank Bjalobok.

And you thought N3FB only fixed repeaters and TV transmitters?

Photo by Krista Lauck, courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Frank Bobro N3FB

Every month we're going to feature a **WASH** club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the **WASH Spotlight**. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next **WASH** Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, **WASH** members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3GM
AB3NM
K3CMU
K3GW
K3HCR
K3VX
K6DWR
KA3VXM
KB3BYA
KB3CMT
KB3DCO
KB3GMN
KB3GMU
KB3IAC
KB3IVX
KB3JHR

KB3ORO
KB3YCX
KC3ELA
KC3GMM
KC3MLC
KC3NWM
KC4WTT
KE7FD
N3DFK
N3FB
N3KFD
N3RDG
N3RDV
N3SBF

N3TDD
N3ZK
N8NEU
NU3Q
W3LE
W3RON
W3WH
W3WN
WA3PYU
WA3VSS
WA3WXR
WB4GCS
WO3Z

WASH FL
KA3UPY/M
W4ZE
WASH NE
N0PEU
W3LE
WASH OR
KB3NVL
KB3NVM
WASH OH
N8DPW

WASH TN
K3OL
KE3XB
N3YBP
WASH TX
NB3C
K3LGM
KB3IJX
Jane Wagner
WASH VI
NP2JF

Silent Keys

AB3KA
K3EED
K3LIE
KA3NMG
KB3ENX
KB3FNM
KB3FQT
KB3JHQ
N3CZZ
N3FZ
N3HKQ
N3KEH
N3OBD
N3RNX
N3SKR
N3SRC
N3ZEL
N3XFE
W3ZLK
WA3JPP

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through December 1st, 2019

List compiled by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

2019–2020 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

December 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
December 6 th –8 th	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 14 th –15 th	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	http://www.arrl.org
December 22 nd	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW	http://www.arrl.org
December 28 th –29 th	Stew Perry Topband Challenge	http://www.kkn.net/stew/
January 1 st	Straight Key Night	http://www.arrl.org
January 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
January 5 th	ARRL Kids Day	http://www.arrl.org
January 11 th	<i>WASH</i> 2 Meter Simplex Contest	http://www.n3sh.org
January 19 th –21 st	ARRL VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
February 6 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park 15102
February 16 th –17 th	ARRL DX Contest CW	http://www.arrl.org
February 23 rd	<i>WASHFest 2020</i>	Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park 15129
March 2 nd –3 rd	ARRL DX Contest SSB	http://www.arrl.org

Two Rivers ARC Hamfest 2020

Sunday, March 29th, 2020, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

McKeesport Palisades and Event Center

100 Fifth Avenue, McKeesport, PA 15132

Talk-in on 146.730 PL 131.8 Admission \$5.00

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>



"Thanks!" — Annual WPXI Holiday Parade

Jim Sanford WB4GCS

Eighty Four, PA, November 30th, 2019 — Thanks to KB3JHR, N8NEU, KC3NWM, WA3PYU, KC3ELA, KB3YCX, KC3NSH, KC4WTT, AND KB3GMU for coming out and helping with the annual WPXI Holiday Parade this morning.

One of my favorite quotes is from John F. Kennedy: "Any man can make a difference, and every man should try."

You made a difference:

- * You helped expedite the lineup;
- * When a couple of units were out of position, you helped get them in the right place,
- * And you helped the organizers track the guy in the red suit -- which was called "valuable" by the guys in the truck with whom Lori was communicating.

Net discipline was excellent, messages were concise, crisp and formal. Some of you heard, some of you may not have, after I shut down the net, a detached observer called in and complimented you all on the crisp net. Thanks, and VERY WELL DONE!

Frank heard several positive comments as he wandered around once he was done marching. As Patti and I were leaving, the parade organizer (Kim) came over and gave us both hugs. (I think we'll be invited back!)

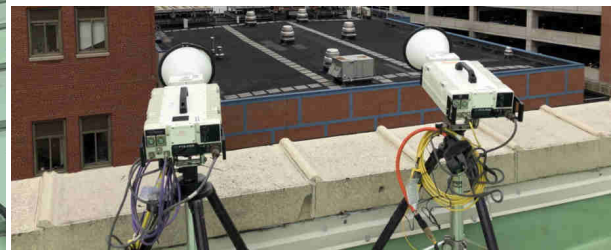
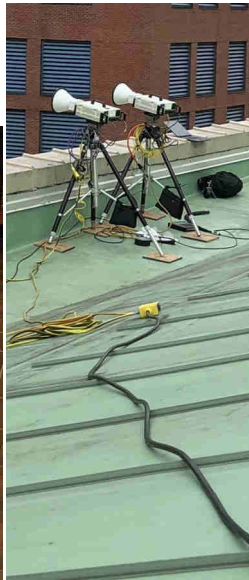
Every operator I spoke with afterward said that they'd had fun.

I have a short list of lessons learned; mostly things I need to bring or do differently next time. If any of the participants have any lessons learned or suggestions, please pass them on to me while fresh in your minds. I'd like to put together a summary and provide an after-action debrief at the club meeting on Thursday night.

We had enough operators to man all stations that we were *requested* to man. In particular, if you have any thoughts on how we could use additional operators, I would like to hear those thoughts. I can't think of any, but those of you who were out "on the ground," are in a better position to answer this question than I am.

Again, well done, congratulations, and THANKS!!

Behind The Scenes Photos (Below) Courtesy of and ©
Copyright 2019 Frank Bobro N3FB



20th Annual WASH Two Meter Simplex Contest

This January will mark the Twentieth Annual **WASH** 2 Meter Simplex Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting! Everyone who participated in it the last nineteen years had a blast, & we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

Hopefully, we've worked out the kinks of the last couple of years, so here's looking forward to a good, smooth, and fun contest! — Chuck KC3ELA

Date & Times: Saturday, January 11th, 2020 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 12th 0000 — 0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band.

- **FM** : FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, as per the ARRL 2 Meter Band Plan, every **15 kHz**, from **146.505 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.450 to 147.585 MHz**. Use of simplex frequencies in the "FM Experimental Simplex" band of 145.510 to 145.670 are not recommended. See list of recommended simplex channels at the end of the rules.
- **CW**: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)
- **SSB & AM**: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan).
- **Digital (including RTTY)**: 144.51 to 144.55 MHz. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan) Multiple digital modes may be used, and participants are free to use any generally accepted Digital mode, but only ONE Digital QSO with a given station regardless of mode

→ *Note: Listen for CW QSO's around 144.1 MHz 15 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for SSB & AM QSO's around 144.2 MHz 30 minutes after the hour*

→ *Listen for Digital QSO's around 144.51 MHz 45 minutes after the hour*

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 100 watts output.

Exchange : Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code.

For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code

Example 1: "N3ZCG from W8XK, please copy Number 3, 15347."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137"

Contacts : Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels below 146.505 MHz.
- Intentional interference to non-contesters, nets, & QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators
- The committee reserves the right to verify QSO's. QSO's that can not be verified may be removed from the log without penalty.

Scoring: Each Contact:

Phone (FM, SSB, AM): 1 point
CW: 2 points
Digital (any mode): 2 points

Multipliers:

Locations:

Power:

Number of different ZIP Codes

X 3 Stations running 10 Watts or Less
X 2 Stations running 10—30 Watts
X 1 Stations running over 30 Watts

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets are now available for download from the **WASH** web site, www.n3sh.org, no later than January 1st.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: **** CORRECT ADDRESS FOR 2020 ****

WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
c/o Charles Bihun KC3ELA
1918 Woodward Avenue, Apartment 2
Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Enclose a #10 SASE for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 1st, 2020

Each log submitted on or before the deadline will receive one (1) main prize ticket to **WASHFest 2020 on February 23rd**

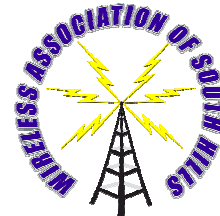
Logs submitted with an SASE will have their ticket mailed to them, otherwise, the tickets will be available at the **WASH** Club table

Recommended FM Simplex Frequencies:

146.505 MHz	146.520 MHz (*)	146.535 MHz	146.550 MHz	146.565 MHz	146.580 MHz
147.450 MHz	147.465 MHz	147.480 MHz	147.495 MHz	147.510 MHz	147.525 MHz
147.540 MHz	147.555 MHz	147.570 MHz	147.585 MHz		

Simplex channels below 146.505 MHz are not to be used, as many of these are in use in WPa as repeater input frequencies.

(*) The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520 MHz, may be used. However, many stations use 52 for casual conversation or as a calling frequency. If the frequency is in use or becomes used by non-participants, please permit them to use the frequency unimpeded. To avoid interference to other contestants and other users of the bands, please do not operate on 5 or 10 kHz "offsets" from these recognized FM channels.



Remembering the SHBP&M

Gary Weslager K3GW (ex WN3KYN, W3KYN)

Over the years the Pittsburgh Area has been lucky to have had several Amateur Radio Groups. My first exposure was the Breezeshooters. I worked the necessary number of stations and became a member on January 27, 1958. "Work us men, we're on 10" was the motto, but not politically correct, today.

It wasn't too long until I discovered the ATA (Amateur Transmitters Association), who met at the old Buhl Planetarium. I went with my dad, W3NVS, to a few meetings, but they were into home brew building and the technical background of each project. On 10 meters a few other groups were on-going: The Etna Radio Club (Now the North Hills ARC), The Western Pennsylvania Mobileers. I am sure there were others.

One very small group, The Grexers Net. The group was formed by Bill "Doc" Klueber W3DZP. His motivation was the fact that so many operators on 10-meter AM complained all the time.... It was a joke. The certificate says, "... Purpose: To air any "Grex" (Gripe if you wish). Aims: Airing same helps, and we offer sympathy, moral, mental, or physical help, and everyone is happier with their lot. No "Grex" about race, creed or color permitted..." Interesting is the list of founding members: W3YIT - Lin, W3SIR - Hal W3KWN - Lou and W3DZP - Doc. Note that Lyn was a quadriplegic and Hal was blind. When Lyn died, her husband W3JT, went to the FCC and asked if he could trade his call for hers out of love and respect. In a surprise move, the FCC DID let him change his call.

In the 1950's and for many years before, there were two Hamfests in Pittsburgh. One North Park by the Breezeshooters and one in South Park by the South Hills Brass Pounders and Modulators.

Because of my father's involvement in Amateur Radio (licensed as W8NVS in 1935) in the Carrick Area of Pittsburgh, he joined and was active with the SHBP&M. I believe the idea for the group was formed by Lou Fabian (W8GJM at the time, then he was issued W3KWN after WWII), and his son, Ted Fabian (W8RUE/W3RUE - his second call), and Bill Guthrie (W8LDB) as well as others.

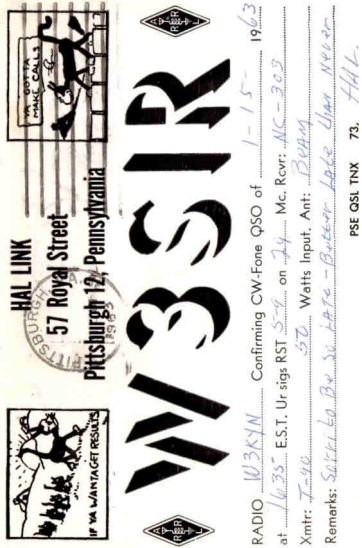
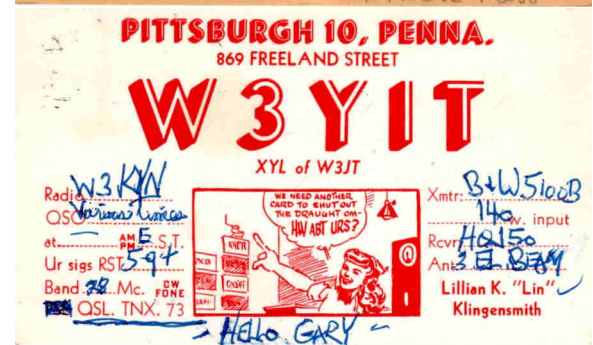
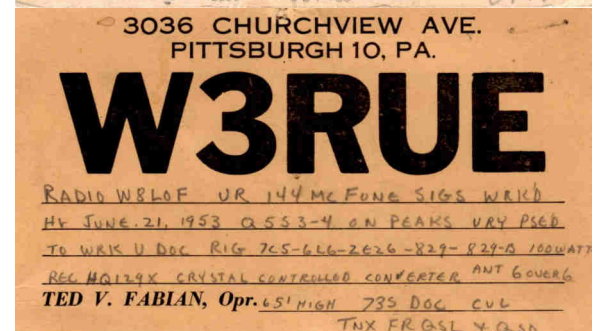
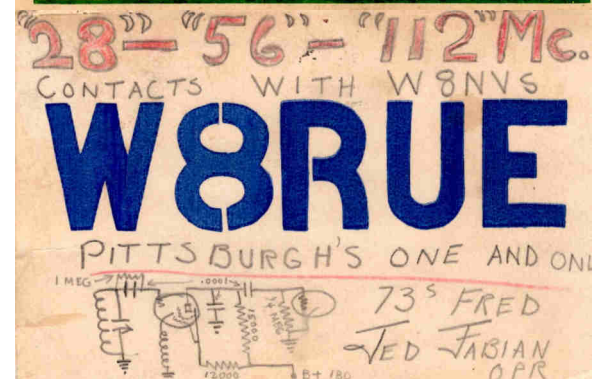
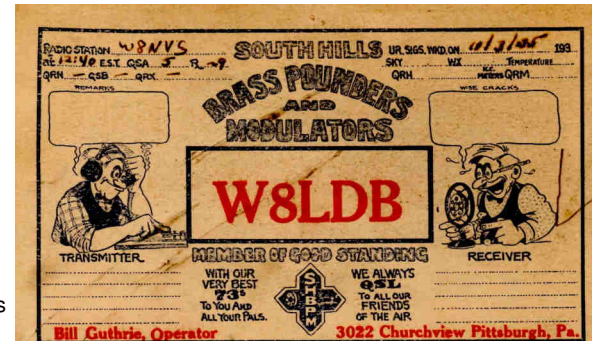
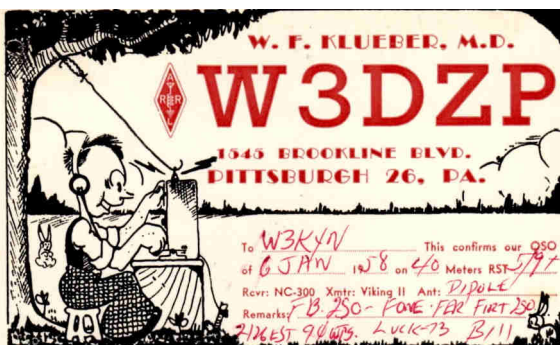
The SHBP&M would sponsor the South Park Hamfest it was normally Harold - W3MML who was the PA announcer and "giver of the prizes." There were hundreds of small prizes along with the normal big prizes. They had to manage their money as there was no parking fee, no admission fee, no membership fee - just the ticket sales. Cameradio and Tydings were major contributors to the prizes.

At Christmastime, Harold would visit Children's Hospital with some kind of transmitter for 10 meters and he would permit children patients to 'talk to' Mrs. Santa via the radio. Mrs. Santa was his wife.... It was wonderful to listen to.



Photo:
Then WN3KYN at his father's shack, circa 1957.

Photo and QSL card scans courtesy of and
(c)Copyright 2019 Gary Weslager K3GW



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager



Falls Creek, PA, December 1st, 2019 – Hope everybody is recuperating from the Thanksgiving Day festivities, Black Friday, three days of turkey leftovers, and way too much football! The good news is that the rest of the Holidays are less than a month away!

Holiday Festivities

The schedules are filling up for Section Manager and other WPA ARRL Staff visits to your holiday dinners, meetings and parties. If you would like a visit, please let me know ASAP and we will try to accommodate your request. Email to sm@wpa-arrl.org and don't forget a followup reminder a few days in advance to make sure things are good to go.

And this holiday season, let's not forget those who need our help. Many of our fellow hams are getting to the point in life where they no longer have the ability to go to ham activities on their own, but would still like to be included. Please remember our friends and offer a ride to the radio club, and maybe even help them out around the shack.

The Pennsylvania Fone Net — It's Back!

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening at 8:00 pm local time, check in to the Pennsylvania Fone Net on 1910 kHz on the 160 meter band. The net was tried on 80 meters but at that time of the evening, the NCS W3GWM was hearing more stations from Montana than from Pennsylvania!

It's a reboot of the original PFN which used to meet daily on 3857 at 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

60 Meter net Saturday Mornings

We are continuing our 60 meter coverage trials, and gathering some very surprising data at this low point in the sunspot cycle. Your reports are helpful indeed. See you on 5403.5 USB after the WPA ARES Voice Net (Saturdays at 9:00 am on 3983.)

DMR happenings

Our WPA Digital Voice Net affords you the opportunity to gather with other DMR users once a week to share comments and make friends throughout our WPA Section. 7:30 pm every Wednesday on DMR Talkgroup 31422.

Thanks to all Repeater Owners who carry the 31422 WPA talk group full time. It allows WPA DMR users to stay in touch, wherever we may roam!

With the rapidly growing DMR interest, and very affordable dual mode, dual band DMR/FM radios, you can get on the air digitally for around \$100, and have lots of people to talk to! If you have a local repeater carrying DMR, please drop me an email, listing the frequency, location, color code, and which channels are available on each time slot. There is no definitive source for this information in WPA, so your help is urgently needed!

In the mean time, if you have a connected DMR repeater in your location, you can try accessing Time Slot 2, Talk Group 2 with your repeater's Color Code. If that doesn't work try Talk Group 31422 on TG2 and then TG1. Once you connect successfully, remember to check the availability a little before the net every Wednesday (around 7:25 pm.)

Good Luck Hunters!

Best wishes to all hunters, and a reminder to us all to monitor 146.52 and your local repeaters to render assistance if necessary. Good luck and safe hunting! 73 and Press ON!

ARRL Legislative Advocacy Committee Drafting New Bill Addressing Antenna Restrictions

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 21st, 2019 –The ARRL Board of Directors Legislative Advocacy Committee is in the process of drafting a new bill to address the issue of private land-use restrictions on amateur radio antennas. The proposed legislation would be the successor to the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Legislative Advocacy Committee, chaired by Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra K6JAT, will report to the Board soon, once plans are fleshed out. Tiemstra told the ARRL Executive Committee (EC) on October 12 in Aurora, Colorado, that Advocacy Committee members have traveled to Washington to meet on multiple occasions with members of Congress and their staffs to inform them of the committee's plans.

ARRL Washington Counsel Dave Siddall K3ZJ, told the EC last month that he understands the conditional exemption of amateur radio licensees from the RF exposure measurement requirements in the FCC's Part 97 Amateur Service rules is proposed to be removed. A *Report and Order* in FCC Docket WT 13-84 is making the rounds that, if adopted, would make amateur licensees subject to the same requirements as all other FCC licensees. The *Report and Order* is expected to be released before year's end.

Siddall also reported to the EC that the FCC is poised to address the 60-meter band amateur allocation adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC-15). The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), on behalf of US government primary users of the band, has insisted that the maximum permitted power for radio amateurs must not exceed that agreed to at WRC-15 — 15 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP) or 9.1 W ERP — despite the fact that Canada has authorized its amateur licensees to use 100 W, and eliminate the current discrete channels, which ARRL's petition proposed to retain. NTIA oversees federal government frequency allocations and users.

[Minutes](#) of the October 12 Executive Committee meeting are posted on the ARRL website.



WWROF To Support YOTA 2020 Camp

Tim Duffy K3LR, Chairman, WWROF

Fredricksburg, TX - November 14th, 2019 - The World Wide Radio Operators Foundation, Inc. (WWROF) has issued a grant to the organizers of Youth on the Air (YOTA) in IARU Region 2, to support a summer camp for licensed amateur radio operators ages 15 through 25.

YOTA 2020 Camp will take place June 21st through June 26th, 2020 at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township (North Cincinnati), Ohio.

WWROF Chairman Tim Duffy K3LR, explains, "We're glad for this opportunity to support a pilot project that will become the first of a series of much needed camps held at various sites throughout the Americas. Supporting YOTA 2020 Camp is consistent with WWROF's mission, by helping to improve the operating skills of those who are new to ham radio."

To learn more about YOTA 2020 Camp, watch the archived episode of Ham Nation, <https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation/episodes/428>, or visit the YOTA website, yotaregion2.org.



1/4 Wave Verticals

Ray Benedict W8LYJ



Columbia, MD, November 14th, 2019 – After 50 years in Broadcast engineering including being chairman, organizer of the AM directional antenna coalition that worked with the FCC on changing the rules permitting computer modeling I have a little bit of experience with AM and end fed monopole antennas.

It's important to determine if the "vertical" antenna being looked at is end fed or a dipole. Many of the Gap antennas are dipoles.

AM stations that have antennas close to a 1/4 wave have a radial system of 120 1/4 wave radials. AM stations with radiators close to 1/2 wavelength have 120 0.400 wavelength radials. That's underneath each tower. The tower height depends on many factors, money, FAA concerns required theoretical efficiency, etc. Those radial system result in a theoretical efficiency of 100%. Incidentally, The advantage of a longer radiator is lower angle of radiation, less sky wave interference. AM stations do have a matching unit at the tower base.

The radial system resistance is in parallel with the ground resistance so two resistors in parallel results in less loss, better efficiency, more power radiated. There are charts in the older ARRL antenna book showing efficiency vs # of radials, radial length etc. it's not linear so beyond about 60 radials does not result in significant increases in efficiency. No radials has an efficiency of about 15% so yes no radial systems do work.

The length of the radials is determined by the number. 0.15 wavelength is a good number for 60 or less, hence the 37 ft recommended length. It's base on 80m.

The theoretical impedance of a 1/4 end fed is about 34 ohms plus a bit of capacitance so not resonant. I have never seen a resonant AM array. As radials are added the impedance goes down closer to 34 ohms so SWR tends to goes up with added radials.

Best to think of an antenna as a capacitor with a resistor in series representing loss. The displacement currents forming the field flow between the plates. With an end fed, one plate is the radiator, the other is ground, a poor conductor of RF. Hence the need for the radial system in parallel with the ground loss resistance. Straight out of the older ARRL antenna books.

Oh, bottom line is, do what you can do. A end fed with no radials, 15% is better than 0%, not enjoying the hobby.

WRC-19 Okays Agreement on 6 Meter Band in ITU Region 1

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 21st, 2019 – Delegates to World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) have approved a 6-meter allocation for International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Region 1 (Europe, Africa, the Middle East). The decision followed more than 2 weeks of strenuous negotiations to reconcile widely disparate views of Region 1 administrations.

"The result is a dramatic improvement in the international Radio Regulations for amateurs in Region 1," the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) said in announcing the agreement.



When the *Final Acts* of the conference take effect, 44 countries in Region 1 will have a primary allocation of at least 500 kHz, including 26 countries with a primary allocation of the entire band 50 – 54 MHz. The entire region will have an amateur secondary allocation of 50 – 52 MHz, except in Russia, whose administration opted for only 50.080 – 50.280 MHz on a secondary basis.

Provisions will be in place to protect other existing services using the band in Region 1 and in neighboring countries in Region 3. The existing primary allocation of 50 – 54 MHz in Regions 2 and 3 is unaffected.

The WRC-19 decision on its agenda item 1.1 is the culmination of years of effort by the IARU and its member-societies.

"The successful outcome on Agenda Item 1.1 could only have come about through a team effort by the IARU member-societies and regional organizations, and especially by the volunteers who have devoted countless hours to preparing documents and attending meetings over the past 3 years," said IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad LA2RR, who is attending the WRC as a member of the Norwegian delegation. "Our thanks go to everyone who has contributed to this effort, including the radio amateurs who support the IARU through membership in the IARU member-society in their country."

Garpestad coordinated overall IARU preparations for WRC-19, while Dave Court EI3IO, led the IARU effort on Agenda Item 1.1. Region 1 Secretary Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, was coordinator for the item on behalf of CEPT, on whose proposal the ultimate compromise was largely based.

Delegates this week faced a daunting workload as they tried to reach consensus on several remaining issues, including the agenda for the next WRC. The final session of the conference plenary to approve texts for inclusion in the *Final Acts* of the conference was set to wrap up on November 21st.

No choices had been made as to which of more than three dozen proposed topics will end up on the agenda for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023. Each proposed agenda item would require studies to be conducted between 2020 and 2023.

November 26th, 2019 – World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, wrapped up on Friday, November 22nd. The month-long event, sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), was the largest ever, with some 3,300 delegates in attendance. ITU has posted the [provisional WRC-19 Final Acts](#) on its website as a 567-page PDF. The WRC-19 *Final Acts* will take effect on January 21st, 2021.

During the last week of the conference, meetings often ran into the wee hours in an effort to get the work completed on schedule. The prime amateur radio agenda item involved agreeing to a band allocation for ITU Region 1 (Europe, Africa, and the Middle East). When the *Final Acts* take effect, 44 countries in Region 1 will have a primary allocation of at least 500 kHz, including 26 countries with a primary allocation of 50 – 54 MHz. The entire region will have an amateur secondary allocation of 50 – 52 MHz, except Russia, whose administration opted for only 50.080 – 50.280 MHz on a secondary basis.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) called the 6-meter outcome "a dramatic improvement in the international *Radio Regulations* for amateurs in Region 1." The next WRC will be in 2023.

The world's longest-lived satellite, AMSAT-OSCAR 7 (AO-7), turned 45 years old last month. It was [launched](#) on November 15th, 1974, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

After nearly 7 years of service, AO-7 was thought to have reached the end of its life in June 1981 due to battery failure, and a [premature obituary](#) appeared in the *AMSAT Satellite Report*.

In an interesting footnote, although AO-7 was thought to be nonfunctional after 1981, [it's been reported](#) that the Polish Solidarity movement used AO-7 to pass messages in 1982, while Poland was under martial law.

Twenty years later, on June 21st, 2002, G3IOR reported hearing "an old-style CW beacon" from an unknown OSCAR near 145.970 MHz. It didn't take long to identify the satellite as AO-7, which remains operational and well-used while it's in sunlight.

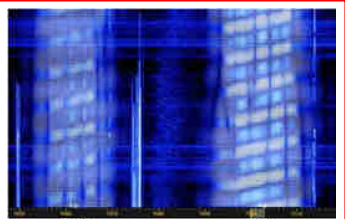
— AMSAT News Service



The latest International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring System ([IARUMS newsletter](#)) reports the Russian "Contayner" over-the-horizon radar (OTHR) has been active in the 7, 10, 14, and 18 MHz amateur radio allocations (amateur radio is primary on 40, 20, and 17 meters). The OTHR transmissions have been 40 sweeps/second, FM on pulse, and 12 kHz wide.

Additionally, IARUMS reports a significant increase in Russian military traffic using F1B, PSK, and orthogonal frequency division multiplex (OFDM) on 40, 30, 20, and 15 meters.

IARUMS on November 13th reported an OTHR in northern Iran on 6.078 – 7.022 MHz, AM on pulse, 81 sweeps/second, 44 kHz wide.



— American Radio Relay League

Spectrum graph of the "Contayner" OTHR courtesy of Wold Hadel DK2OM

HamSCI Founder Wins \$1.3M NSF Ionosphere Study Grant

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 7th, 2019 – Nathaniel Frissell W2NAF, now a University of Scranton physics and electrical engineering professor, has won a \$1.3 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to study weather effects in the ionosphere by leveraging a network of amateur radio stations. Frissell is perhaps best known within the amateur radio community as the founder of HamSCI, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation initiative. The Distributed Arrays of Small Instruments ([DASI](#)) project will be implemented over 3 years. As principal investigator, Frissell — a space physicist — will head a collaborative team that will develop ground-based space science observation instruments and software. His research effort will recruit multiple universities and radio amateurs to operate a network of [personal space weather stations](#).



"I'm very excited," Frissell told ARRL. "This grant is extremely exciting for both ham radio and ionospheric research. Perhaps more than the money, it means that the NSF is recognizing the good work that we, as hams, are doing and the contribution we can make in the future."

Frissell said the grant demonstrates that the scientific community is taking amateur radio seriously. "This is great for ham radio, as it provides yet another avenue for us to contribute to the art and science of radio in a meaningful way," he said.

The space weather equipment will be developed at two levels of sophistication — one at a low-cost, easy-to-use level for radio amateurs, and another, more complex version for university partners that will allow the collection of additional data.

"The equipment and network allows us to measure and characterize ionospheric and geomagnetic short-term, small-scale variability on a large geographic scale in order to understand the response of the ionosphere to sources from above (space weather) and below (atmospheric forcing)," Frissell explained in his grant proposal. "By designing personal space weather station variants at multiple price points, open sourcing the hardware and software, and directly engaging with the ham radio community, this project maximizes the chances of widespread adoption of this system." Frissell intends to focus his recruitment efforts through HamSCI and TAPR.

Frissell says measuring and better understanding modulations in the ionosphere is important, because these changes can affect Earth- and space-based radio signals, which can, in turn, affect satellite communication, GPS systems, HF radio, and more. In his [earlier study](#), "Modeling Amateur Radio Soundings of the Ionospheric Response to the 2017 Great American Eclipse," published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, Frissell measured changes in the ionosphere during the solar eclipse, using data collected by participating hams who engaged in the Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP). His new initiative expands this model and will develop new equipment to collect and analyze additional data.

Collaborators in the NSF-funded DASI project include William Engelke AB4EJ, and Travis Atkison of the University of Alabama; David Kazdan AD8Y, and Soumyajit Mandal AC8WY, of Case Western Reserve University; Hyomin Kim KD2MCR, of the New Jersey Institute of Technology; Phil Erickson W1PJE, of MIT's Haystack Observatory, and Scott Cowling WA2DFI, of TAPR and Zephyr Engineering.

A graduate of Montclair State University and Virginia Tech, Frissell joined the faculty at the University of Scranton this fall, after a stint on the New Jersey Institute of Technology faculty.

Frissell told ARRL that the 2020 HamSCI workshop will take place March 20th – 21st at the University of Scranton. He's also hoping to take advantage of the opportunity the grant provides to establish a ham radio club at the University of Scranton.

IARU & Amateur Radio Reaching "An Inflection Point"

International Amateur Radio Union, American Radio Relay League

Lima, Peru, November 8th, 2019 – Participants at the 45th meeting of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council (AC) in late September discussed the organization's role in advancing amateur radio going forward. The IARU released a [summary record](#) of the meeting this week. IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH/G4HUA, who chaired the AC meeting in Lima, Peru, observed that the IARU and amateur radio are reaching what he called "an inflection point." He asserted that amateur radio is changing, but the IARU and its member-societies are not.

Ellam's remarks prefaced a wide-ranging discussion of the challenges to be overcome if the IARU and amateur radio itself are to remain relevant. After several hours of discussion, AC participants agreed on four top-level headings to identify the challenges that must be faced:

- What is amateur radio?
- The roles of IARU and its member-societies
- Recruitment into amateur radio
- IARU finances

The AC also agreed that it is essential to involve younger people from outside the Council in determining how to address these challenges, and the three IARU regions were asked to identify individuals who "could take ownership of these topics."

A small working group was named, consisting of IARU Region 2 Vice President Ramón Santoyo XE1KK; Region 2 Area A Director George Gorsline VE3YV, and IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie G3BJ. Using topics discussed to develop a starting point, the panel will aim to have a draft version of a plan by mid-December to address the challenges that would serve as a basis for further discussion.

IARU Region 1 (Europe, Africa, and the Mideast) has been a leader in marshalling interest among next-generation radio amateurs, sponsoring Youngsters On The Air ([YOTA](#)), and other youth-related activities, including a summer camp each year attended by young radio amateurs from around Region 1. IARU Region 3 noted at the Council meeting that it plans a Youth on the Air activity in Thailand next October and expressed the hope that Regions 1 and 2 can participate.

In other matters, based on a suggestion from Fred Matos W3ICM — a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) spectrum manager — the AC agreed to change the objective of the IARU HF World Championship contest to read as follows: "To support amateur self-training in radiocommunications, including improving amateur operating skills, conducting technical investigations, and intercommunicating with other amateurs around the world, especially IARU member-society headquarters stations, using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands."

According to an AC meeting document, Matos' rationale is that the objective of an IARU-sponsored activity should tie directly to the ITU *Radio Regulations*.

In a related matter, the Council agreed to indicate to ARRL, which administers the competition, that it would favor relaxing rules for multioperator, single transmitter, mixed-mode entries — which the AC views as more restrictive and punitive than those that apply to most other contests — without affecting scoring and adjudication. Under current rules, multioperator, single transmitter, mixed-mode entries must remain on a band and mode for at least 10 minutes before changing bands or modes, and violating the band change rules will reclassify the entry as a check log. The IARU event is held each July.

To keep informed on IARU happenings, subscribe to the [ARRL-IARU](#) online group, moderated by IARU Secretary Dave Sumner K1ZZ.



N1DG Appointed to NOAA USF&WS Community Group

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 11th, 2019 – Don Greenbaum N1DG, of Duxbury, Massachusetts, has been appointed to the [NOAA/US Fish and Wildlife Service Community Group](#). He will participate in meetings to discuss the development of the Monument Management Plan that will provide for effective direction over the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM). He will serve as a citizen-at-large representative.

His input in the discussions will take into account his past trips to the reserve and represent the views of users — including ham radio operators. Greenbaum has been on DXpeditions to three of the reserves within the PRIMNM. He also assisted in drafting the Compatibility Determination in 2017 that led to the issuance of a Special Use Permit for the 2018 KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island.



The first in-person meeting was held September 4 – 5 in Honolulu, Hawaii, and meetings will take place approximately every 4 to 6 months. Greenbaum hopes to hear from the amateur radio community as to what it would like to see incorporated into his input to the group, from the stewardship of the PRIMNM and from reserve visitors for amateur radio operations.

Newington, CT, November 20th, 2019 – The government in Myanmar has given limited amateur operating privileges to Martti Laine OH2BH. He will use **XZ2D**. Laine reports that authorities in the Southeast Asian nation have only permitted him to operate on 15 meters and higher, but he is hoping to obtain permission to operate on a spot frequency on 20 meters.

“Getting 14.065 kHz temporarily for the duration of 48 hours would be magic,” Laine said. Members of the worldwide amateur community wrote the Myanmar government to support Laine.

“As Radio Arcala, OH8X, remains at their Climate Park with more than 110,000 [mangroves planted](#),” he continued. “[O]ur dream remains to activate the Union of Myanmar from our own site from the noise-free Ayeyarwady Region of Myanmar.” The XZ2D license is valid until next April 17th. Laine said he has been setting up his station and should be on the air on November 21st.

According to Club Log’s DXCC Most Wanted list, Myanmar is #48.

– American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 14th, 2019 – The Electronic Applications Radio Service has announced that the first Youth On The Air (YOTA) camp in the United States will be taking place next June. Sponsors hope the camp will become an annual event.



The inaugural summer camp will take place June 21st – 26th at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio. The West Chester Amateur Radio Association ([WC8VOA](#)) will host the event. Operating the camp will be Electronic Applications Radio Service, Inc. ([EARS](#)), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to wireless technologies and activities.

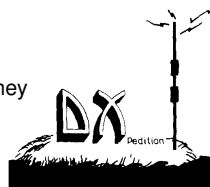
According to the announcement, the camp will focus on building peer and mentor relationships and taking amateur radio “to the next level.” Campers will attend workshops and activities in multiple STEM-related subjects, such as radio contesting, electronic kit building, D-Star, APRS, satellite communication, antenna building, and radio direction finding and orienteering. A high-altitude balloon launch is also being planned. Campers will learn and exercise on-the-air skills at special event station W8Y.

Contributors include Icom America, Heil Sound Ltd., X-Tronic, and R&L Electronics. Major financial supporters so far include the ARRL Foundation, the Yasmie Foundation, the World Wide Radio Operators Foundation, Orlando HamCation and Orlando Amateur Radio Club, the Northern California DX Foundation, Dayton Hamvention and the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, the Huntsville Hamfest, Southwest Ohio DX Association, Radio Amateurs of Canada, and Gary West K8DEV & Dee Dee West KA8DXE.

For more information, [email](#) Camp Director Neil Rapp WB9VPG, or call (812) 327-0749.

– American Radio Relay League

DX News Briefs



The Rebel DX Group reported on 27 November that they had received a \$25,000 donation from “one of the well-known DX clubs” towards expenses for the next **3Y0I** expedition. “They didn’t ask any monkey business questions.” On 30 November, they reported another grant via PayPal of \$10,000 from an “amateur radio enthusiast”. They are continuing to request donations via their GoFundMe page, <https://www.gofundme.com/t/3y0i-bouvet-island-expedition>. More information at <https://bouvetoya.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/rebeldxgroup>

“Sailing to Rotuma (for **3D2AG/R**) is now confirmed for 14 December, with start of operations around 17 December. Because of the need to take drums of diesel fuel, a heavy-duty generator, and other equipment flying is not an option. Focus will be on low bands including 160m, 80m and 60m, with QRO when required. There will be NO internet access during the expedition; FT8 logs will be uploaded to ClubLog AFTER the expedition and CW/SSB/RTTY contacts will be recorded on paper logs as customary for this OP. QSL Information: Via 3D2AG, using PayPal to email address (nveurt@gmail.com) (preferred, safer) direct for CW/SSB/RTTY and ClubLog’s OQRS (FT8/Digimodes only). No LoTW unless OQRS made first and ADIF file sent (expedition uses paper logs for CW).” More information will be at <https://www.grz.com/lookup/3D2AG/P>

DK7TF will “soon” be again QRV as **4S7DLG**, HF, SSB & FT8. QSL via MØOXO

HR5/F2JD will again be QRV 12 December – 4 April, 160 – 6, CW SSB & Digital. QSL via F6AJA or the REF Bureau

C56PIS will be QRV through 13 December, holiday style, HF. QSL via SA6PIS direct

C56VR will be QRV through 14 December, holiday style, HF, CW SSB & FT8. QSL via ON4BR direct

VK2BY will be QRV as **HSØZNR** 14 December – 8 January, 80 -10, SSB & FT8. QSL via VK2BY

Members of the Russian Robinson Club will be QRV as **E44RU** 5 – 14 January, 160 – 10, CW SSB & FT8. More information at <https://dxpedition.wixsite.com/e44ru> QSL via R7AL

Members of Radio Club de Provins (G6KOP) will be QRV as **E44CC** 5 – 17 February, 160-10, CW SSB RTTY PSK FT4 & FT8. More information at <https://palestine2020.wordpress.com> .QSL via F5GSJ

C5YK will be QRV through early March, 60 – 6, primarily FT8 with some CW SSB JT65 JT9 and RTTY. More information at <http://www.on7yk.eu/index.html> QSL via ON7YK direct, AFTER March 2020

6Y/GØRNU will be QRV 4 – 17 February, 80 – 6 meters, as propagation and other activities permit. QSL via eQSL

FP/KV1J will be QRV from the Island of Miquelon (NA-032), 30 June – 14 July, 160 – 10, primarily SSB & RTTY, with some CW FT4 & FT8, and some satellites. More info at <http://www.kv1j.com/fp/July20.html> QSL via KV1J

QSL Routes

3G1D via XQ1FM	EA8/IK1PMR via HB9FKK	OH9SCL via OH9AB
4U25B via 9A2AA	EF8P via EA8DA	OR18WTO via ON4KNP
5B4AJC via UA3DX	EG5ANV via EA5ASU	OR2F via ON8LDS
5R8KU via JA8VE	EH2EUS via EA2TP	OR8AJ via ON8AJ
9M8YY via JR3WXA	EIØNMMI via EI6AL	PJ7TM via K2GSJ
9N1AA via N4GMR	HC5DX via W3HNC	SF6F via SA6FOL
C31CT via EA3QS	HK7AAG via EA5GL	TR8CR via F6AJA
C6AGU via HA7RY	HSØZFN via DL3DXX	UE29DX via RQ7L
CN8NAY via RW6HS	IB9T via IT9TQH	V31CQ via K5PS
CR3DX via OM2VL	KP3RE via EA5GL	VP2ETE via W3HNC
CR3S via G4IRN	KP4RV via EA5GL	VP2MPS via K2PS
CR3X via K2PF	LO5D via LU8EOT	VP9I via WW3S
CR50 via CT7AJL	LT1F via LU1FKR	VU2HBC via DL7BC
D4Z via HB9DUR	LYØA via LY5A	XV9D via EA5GL
DM4X via DK1MAX	OE3XMA via OE1DIA	YW5F via YV5DTA
DQ4Q via DJ5FI	OH5Z via OH5LIZ	
EA6/EI6DX via RA3R		

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

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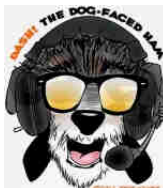
Antenna Zoning or PRB-1 Issues?

Contact: **Michael S. Lazaroff K3AIR, Esquire**
Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056
Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

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US Amateurs by Class as of December 2nd, 2019:

Novice	9,086
Technician	416,463
General	189,445
Advanced	41,824
Extra	154,492
Club	12,696
Total	825,006
All-Time High	11/29/2019 825,095

Last 90 Days:	New Amateurs	7,912
	Callsign Changes	2,530
	Class Changes	2,660
	No Longer Licensed	6,364
	All Updates (*)	27,501

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, November 26th, 2019 – The FCC has invited comments on a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)*, that would allow AM broadcasters to transmit an all-digital signal using the HD Radio in-band on-channel (IBOC) mode, known as MA3.1

"We tentatively conclude that a voluntary transition to all-digital broadcasting has the potential to benefit AM stations and provide improved AM service to the listening public," the FCC said. "We seek comments on proposed operating standards for all-digital stations and the impact of such operations on existing analog stations and listeners."

The proceeding was initiated by a March 2019 *Petition for Rulemaking* (Petition) filed by Bryan Broadcasting Corporation. "This proceeding continues the Commission's efforts to improve and update the AM radio service to provide a better listening experience for consumers and enhanced service offerings, as part of our continuing effort to revitalize AM broadcasting," the FCC said in the introduction to the NPRM.

Comments are due 60 days after the *NPRM* appears in *The Federal Register*

At its December 12th open meeting, the FCC will consider adopting a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* that proposes to remove the amateur radio 9-centimeter allocation at 3.3 – 3.5 GHz. ARRL plans to comment in opposition to the proposed action. According to an FCC **"Fact Sheet,"** the proceeding WT Docket 19-348, "Facilitating Shared Use in the 3.1 – 3.55 GHz Band," is a follow-on from the MOBILE NOW Act, approved by the 115th Congress, which requires the FCC and the US Department of Commerce to make available new spectrum for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use. It also requires the FCC to work with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to evaluate whether commercial wireless services and federal incumbents could share spectrum between 3.1 and 3.55 GHz. NTIA manages spectrum allocated to federal government users.

"This *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* would propose to remove the existing non-federal allocations in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band as a step towards potential future shared use between federal incumbents and commercial users," the FCC Fact Sheet explains. "By taking the initial step needed to clear the band of allocations for non-federal incumbents, the Commission furthers its continued efforts to make more mid-band spectrum potentially available to support next generation wireless networks — consistent with the mandate of the MOBILE NOW [Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless] Act."

The *NPRM* proposes to clear the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band of existing non-federal users by removing *non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations* [emphasis added] in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band and to relocate incumbent non-federal users out of the band. The FCC would seek comment on relocation options and "transition mechanisms" for incumbent non-federal users, either to the 3.1 – 3.3 GHz band or to other frequencies, and on how to ensure that non-federal secondary operations in the 3.1 – 3.3 GHz band will continue to protect federal radar systems.

Regarding the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Service allocations, the FCC *NPRM* asks whether existing amateur spectrum in other bands might support operations currently conducted in the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz band. The 3.40 – 3.41 GHz segment is designated for amateur satellite communication. "We seek comment on the extent to which the band is used for this purpose, whether existing satellites can operate on other amateur satellite bands, and on an appropriate timeframe for terminating these operations in this band," the FCC *NPRM* says.

Also at its December 12 meeting, the FCC will consider another *NPRM* in WT Docket 19-138 that would "take a fresh and comprehensive look" at the rules for the 5.9 GHz band and propose, among other things, to make the lower 45 MHz of the band available for unlicensed operations and to permit "Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything" (C-V2X) operations in the upper 20 MHz of the band. The FCC is *not* proposing to delete or otherwise amend the amateur allocation, and it would continue as a secondary allocation, but the primary allocation for 5.850 – 5.925 GHz would change.

The amateur radio 5-centimeter allocation is 5650.0 – 5925.0 MHz, and the *NPRM*, if approved, would address the top 75 MHz of that amateur secondary band. While no changes are proposed to the amateur allocation, anticipated more intensive use by primary users could restrict secondary amateur use.

The band 5.850 – 5.925 GHz has been reserved for use by dedicated short-range communications (DSRC), a service in the intelligent transportation system (ITS) designed to enable vehicle-related communications, the FCC said in a **Fact Sheet** in WT Docket 19-138. "The Commission initiates this *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* to take a fresh and comprehensive look at the 5.9 GHz band rules and propose appropriate changes to ensure the spectrum supports its highest and best use." ARRL also will file comments opposing any changes affecting the 5-centimeter amateur allocation.

Both draft FCC proposals are subject to change prior to a vote at the December 12 FCC meeting, and there will be opportunity to file comments and reply comments on the final proposals after they are released.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH!**

Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoo.com and the automation should take care of the rest!



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The South Hills Hamfest — Now in our **TWENTY FIFTH** big year!
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Sunday, February 23rd, 2020
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Second Prize: Yaesu FTM-7250DR 2/440 50 Watt Mobile
Third Prize: Yaesu FM-79DR 2/440 5 Watt HT

Additional Hourly Door Prizes! 2 Special Black Box Prizes (Separate Drawing)!

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All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For Table Reservations, or More Information, Please Contact:

Carol Danko KB3GMN at (412) 884-1466 n3sbf@comcast.net
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.n3sh.org

Please Note: Early Table Reservations must be paid in full on or before January 31st, 2020.

Reservations received after February 1st, 2020 must include payment in full.

Reserve now... we have sold out in advance ten years running!

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

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Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

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Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$12.00 = _____

5 Or More Tables w/o: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
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We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

Membership Application, New or Renewal



I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter _____)
(check one)

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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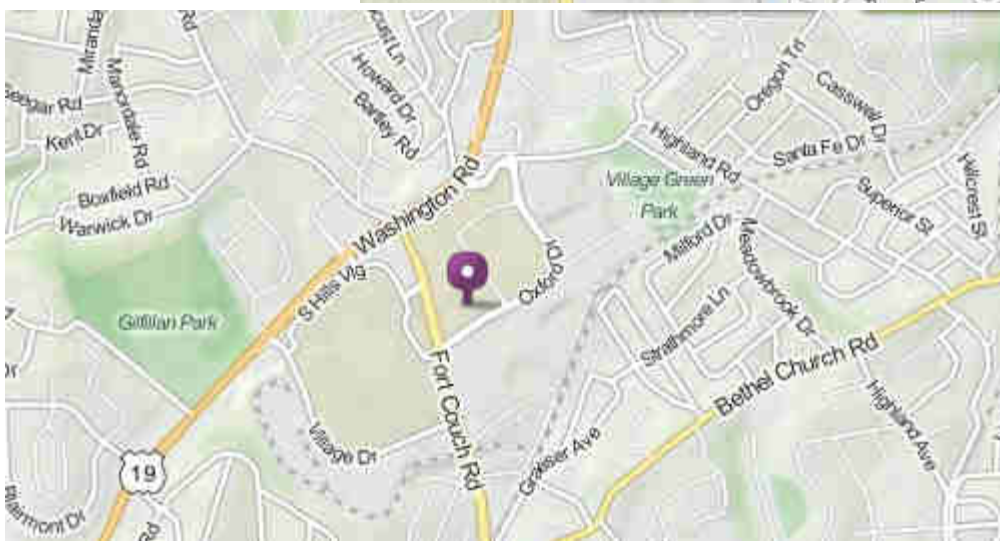
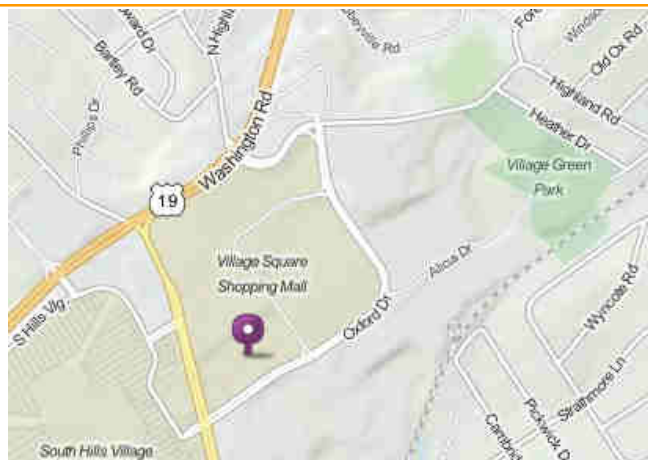


2019 WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

3395 Rosewood Drive

Castle Shannon, PA 15234-2546



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